The Congregationalist

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Maywood, Illinois

Host To The Annual Meeting
Of The National Association

October 4, 5, 6, 1960

VOLUME 3 SEPTEMBER, 1960 NUMBER 8

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free." — Galatians 5:1

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

First Congregational Church, Maywood, Illinois
October 4, 5, and 6, 1960

Monday, October 3 — Meetings of Commissions and the Executive Committee

Tuesday, October 4 — 8:00 A.M. Registration

10:00 — Call to Order; Worship Service. Rev. Erwin A. Britton, prize-winning sermon.

10:40 — Moderator's Address, Mr. Gordon W. Kingsbury.

11:05 — Business Session

11:30 — Report of the Executive Committee, Dr. George V. Bohman

12:15 — Luncheon, Address of Welcome, Rev. Leonard H. Maunder; Presentation of New Churches

2:00 — Presentation of Budget

2:30 — Address, Dr. Howard Conn

3:15 — Seminars: (1) Missions, (2) Ministry, (3) Christian Education, (4) Publications, (5) Women's Work, (6) Youth

6:00 — Dinner, Address, Rev. John Murray Marshall

8:00 — Charlton Heston Recording
Address, Dr. Albert D. Belden, London, England

Program continued in column 2

Wednesday, October 5: 9:00 — Congregational Singing led by Mr. Thomas W. Williams, followed by Business Session.

11:15 — Communion Service, led by Rev. Leonard H. Maunder; Meditation by Rev. Thomas J. W. Cornish

12:15 — Luncheon, Reports on Summer Youth Activities

2:00 — Discussion of Final Constitution, Dr. Bohman

The S. E. E. Program, Rev. Neil H. Swanson, Jr.

3:30 — Discussion Groups: (1) What Can Free Churches Do About the Movement For Organic Unity? (2) What Methods Can Free Churches Use To Start New Churches in Needed Areas? (3) What Kind of Fellowship Can Be Provided For Pro-Congregational Individuals? (4) What Can We Do To Assure a Ministry For Smaller Free Churches? (5) What Can Be Done To Get Pro-and-Con Discussion Concerning the Proposed Constitution in Every Congregational Church?

6:00 — Dinner; Address, Rev. Malcolm K. Burton

8:00 — Presentation of Prize Winning Play written by Mrs. George Berkaw, by Young People of Royal Oak, Michigan.

8:45 — Debate on U. C. C. Constitution

Thursday, October 6: 9:00 — Worship Service, Rev. Herbert Duncan

9:30 — Business Session

12:15 — Luncheon, Address on "Lay Christianity" by a Layman

1:30 — Business Session, Installation of Officers

2:30 — Address "Congregationalism Into Tomorrow," Dr. Henry David Gray.

NOTE: *Registration Cards have been sent to all member-Churches. Individuals wishing to attend should write to Mr. Swanson at the National Association office, 176 West Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin.*

"THE CONGREGATIONAL WAY OF LIFE"

Arthur A. Rouner Jr.

"With rare skill, Mr. Rouner has interpreted a vital facet of the Christian Faith, Congregationalism . . . the best book I know for quick and intelligent reading in this important field."
— REV. L. WENDELL FIFIELD

"This volume is of importance and has particular timeliness not only for members, lay and clerical, of all Congregational Churches . . . but also for Church men and women of all communions. . . . The concluding paragraphs of this book are eloquent with spiritual meaning."
— REV. DANIEL A. POLING

"Here is a book that has long been overdue. Its eager rousing pages, throbbing with a deep, intense conviction, should kindle the fire of a new devotion to Independent Churchmanship in its readers. All Congregationalists should read and spread abroad this excellent book."
— REV. ALBERT D. BELDEN

Published by Prentice-Hall, Inc., on September 26, this book may be obtained through the Milwaukee office of the National Association. Single copies, regular price $3.50. For Church organizations, five copies or more, 40% discount; single copies for Churches and Church organizations, 33⅓% discount.

THE CONGREGATIONALIST is published and circulated monthly except August, by the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches of the United States. Executive Secretary, Rev. Neil H. Swanson Jr., 176 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin. Eastern Field Representative and Editor of THE CONGREGATIONALIST, Rev. Joseph J. Russell, 61 East Street, Melrose 76, Massachusetts.

Change of address notices, undeliverable copies, orders for subscriptions, and other mail items should be sent to the Editor.

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Second class postage paid at Boston, Massachusetts.

WOMEN'S WORK

MRS. ROBERT E. COLLINS, Chairman
1014 FLORAL DRIVE, S.E., GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

As opportunity affords and invitations are received, the members of the Commission on Women's Work of the National Association are happy to be present at the meetings of Church or regional women's groups. It was possible for Mrs. Robert E. Collins, Chairman of the Commission, to accept the invitation of the women of the First Congregational Church of Maywood, Illinois, to speak to them on the occasion of their Annual Meeting, a luncheon on May 4.

In view of the invitation extended by the Maywood Church to hold the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches annual meeting there this October, Mrs. Collins was delighted that she thus had an opportunity to meet in advance those who will be hosts to the Women's Seminar in conjunction with the National Association meeting. The new officers were installed following the luncheon.

The visit also made it possible for Mrs. Collins to consider plans for the Women's Seminar in relationship to the facilities available. Mrs. Dorothy Schmitz of Allegan, Michigan, is the author of a brief play which the Commission expects to present with an "all-star cast" of Commission members. It is provocatively titled "Program Chairman? Oh, No! I Can't Possibly!"

An important consideration at the seminar will be the choosing of the "Women's Project — Our Shared Benevolence" for the year 1961. Chosen in previous years have been Church Extension and Piedmont College. All monies given in any calendar year to the "Women's Project — Our Shared Benevolence" are assigned to the particular missions project designated by the women at the previous Annual Meeting.

Preparing for the Annual Meeting

Seated: Mrs. Leonard Maunder, Mrs. E. Wagner
Standing: Mrs. Robert E. Collins, Mrs. Dorothy Noren.

Envelopes Available

For those who desire them for enclosing either women's group gifts or individual offerings on behalf of the "Women's Project — Our Shared Benevolence," there are offering envelopes available at the National Association Office, 176 West Wisconsin, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin. All donations to the end of this year will be sent to Piedmont College, the 1960 project.

CITATION FOR REVEREND BRUCE H. MASSELINK

Even as the spirit of the *Mayflower* is known to every American as one of courage, conviction, and adventure, so the spirit of the minister of the Mayflower Congregational Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is known to his congregation as a man of God with dynamic courage, strong convictions, and winsome adventure.

The Reverend Bruce H. Masselink was born in the furniture manufacturing city of Kalamazoo, Michigan. After graduating from St. John's Military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in his home city of Kalamazoo College. He began his graduate studies at the University of Michigan in medicine. His father naturally hoped that his talented son would follow him into the pathways of science and dentistry. The call of teaching and preaching the Gospel, however, won out and possessed the son. Thus, he journeyed to Chicago for his Bachelor of Divinity degree at the University of Chicago.

After being ordained in the church of his childhood and youth, he served as Assistant Minister in Park Congregational Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

He married Donna Parrish who has a BS and a MA from the University of Wisconsin. They have a daughter, Mara Gay, and a son, Gerrit.

For nineteen years he was the minister of the First Congregational Church in Burlington, Iowa. Two years ago he matched his boundless good will with a challenging call to gather a new Church among kindred spirits in his home city who desired to establish a new Church, Mayflower Congregational Church. Already there are 800 members who have outgrown the first schoolhouse sanctuary, accepted a beautiful property for their new church, and have raised over half of the $900,000 budget adopted for their building program. The members like the minister of Mayflower Congregational have the spirit of freedom and the dynamic of Christian convictions.

Many civic and church organizations of local and national scope have been served faithfully and effectively. A constant concern for the welfare of youth has marked his ministry with foresight and missionary zeal.

In recognition of his unflagging devotion to the Gospel of Freedom in Christ, and in recognition of his wholehearted dedication to the Kingdom of God, I have the honor to present Bruce H. Masselink for the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Preview of the United Church

An Editorial Report on the Cleveland Synod

(NOTE. Space does not permit a full report of all the actions taken at Cleveland, July 6-8, by the adjourned meeting of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The Editor took many notes on the proceedings and presents the following statements which he believes to be factual and important, as to the most vital of the proposed amendments, action taken on them, and in a few cases, arguments used by speakers regarding them. The numbers refer to paragraphs in the "Blue Book," the Revised Draft of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws.)

About the Faith of the United Church

The Revised Draft reads, in par. 2, "It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers." A motion to amend this by substituting "New Testament" for "ancient creeds" was defeated, as was another motion to include both "the New Testament" and "the ancient creeds." One argument used against amendment was that "we want to prepare a soundly ecumenical document," and that "creeds" would be understood by such other communions as the Presbyterians and Episcopalians.

The Rights of the Local Church

A motion to amend par. 21 by striking out the words "now or at any future time" (line 6) was defeated. It is noteworthy, however, that in the discussion on this motion, an E & R delegate said, "All thus far has gone on the basis of faith; we should not cater to doubters," and immediately afterward a former moderator of the General Council repeated that "we are not here to suit doubters."

One of the most significant actions came on the motion to *strike out* of par. 22 the concluding clause, "such actions, decisions or advice being advisory, not mandatory." This was referred to the Constitutional Commission, which the next day reported favorably and the motion to strike out these characteristically Congregational words was adopted.

On the Powers of the General Synod

It was moved to amend par. 59, regarding negotiations with other communions, by adding "except that any union with any denomination must be approved by two-thirds of the Churches." In the debate on this, a member of the Constitutional Commission said that detailed plans must not be set up; the wisdom of the General Synod must be trusted. The Congregational delegate who had moved the amendment said that there is wisdom also in the churches. The amendment was defeated.

In like manner, a motion to amend par. 88 to require that amendments to the Constitution must be approved by two-thirds of the churches, was defeated.

Control of the Mission Boards

A motion was made to amend par. 68 to provide that the *conferences* should nominate and the General Synod elect the corporate members of the United Church Board For World Ministries. The mover of the amendment stated that the purpose was to bring the choice of these members closer to the conferences, which are expected to provide the funds. The motion was defeated.

The By-Laws

Motions to amend par. 177 to increase the number of delegates to the General Synod so as to give wider representation were defeated.

A motion to limit the tenure of the officers of the United Church to three four-year terms (par. 181) was first adopted, but on reconsideration it was defeated.

Notes and Comments

As this observer saw the temper and spirit of the Synod, it appeared that those who would tighten the control of the entire structure in the hands of the central body of the new church were ready and able to ride rough-shod over those who would place in the hands of the churches a greater degree of power than the Revised Draft provided.

Motions which would strengthen the central control were vigorously supported by the denominational officials and members of the Constitutional Commission who sat on the platform, but when motions were made to provide more control by the churches, not a voice was heard from the platform in defense of this fundamental Congregational principle. The questions may well be asked, "What has become of the promises that Congregational principles will prevail in the United Church? What has happened to the naive belief expressed by some well-meaning people that because Congregational Christians outnumber the Evangelical and Reformed people, our majority will see to it that our principles are upheld?"

* * * * * * * * *

About three weeks after the Cleveland Synod had refused to curtail the powers of a central church government, Continuing Congregationalist Walter H. Judd, in the keynote speech at a far different gathering in Chicago quoted Woodrow Wilson's speech in New York in 1912. "Liberty has never come from the government . . . The history of liberty is a history of resistance. The history of liberty is a history of the limitations of governmental power, not the increase of it."

When Representative Judd expressed his approval of that, some of us who heard him on television or read his speech in the next morning's papers remembered his words at the National Association Annual Meeting in Hartford in 1957.

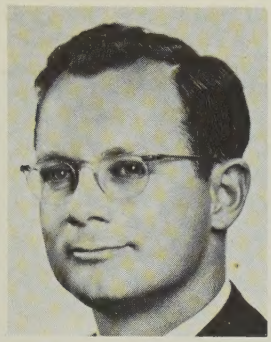
"The unique contribution of the Congregational Churches is their insistence on the principle of government from-the-bottom-up. This principle is the foundation of our American form of government and the major reason for its remarkable success. . . . This principle is sufficiently important that the Congregationalists ought not, I believe, to abandon it, but rather to maintain our unceasing witness to it. The free Churches are being challenged. Congregationalists, *choose ye this day whom ye will serve.*"

Pastoral Changes. Mr. Stoddard B. Williams has been called to the First Church of Christ, Congregational, in East Haddam, Connecticut . . . The First Congregational Church of Eaton Rapids, Michigan, has extended a call to Mr. Russell Waldron, who has been studying for a Master's degree at Michigan State University . . . Rev. Edward A. Smith, pastor of the First Church of Houlton, Maine, has resigned effective September 1 . . . Rev. Norman Halladay, formerly of Belfast, Ireland, began work as pastor at Riceville, Iowa in July.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Rev. Neil H. Swanson, Jr., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The main purpose of the National Association is expressed in Article 2 of the Articles of Association:



Mr. Swanson

To provide a means by which Congregational Christian Churches of this nation may, without in any wise disturbing or altering their present associations and affiliations, consult and advise together as Churches upon matters of common concern to them, both temporal and spiritual;

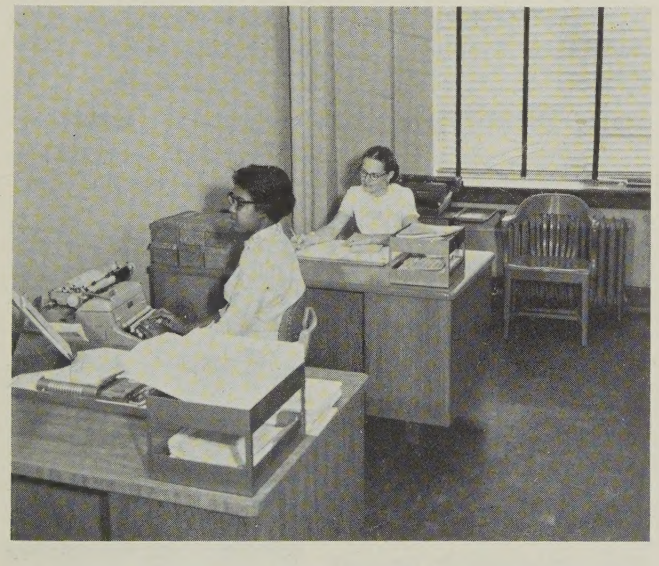
To provide this closer fellowship and unity in all spiritual matters among Congregational Christian Churches;

To aid, in such ways as may from time to time be appropriate and proper, the continuance and growth of those Christian purposes and practices which have been the historic and accepted characteristics of Congregational Christian Churches;

In case of necessity to do and perform any and all functions ordinarily and customarily performed by Congregational Christian Associations;

To promote, carry on and supervise such cooperative activities among member Churches as to them from time to time may seem wise and expedient;

Upon application therefor by member Churches, to provide for them such assistance, whether financial or through advice and consultation or otherwise, as may be proper and expedient.

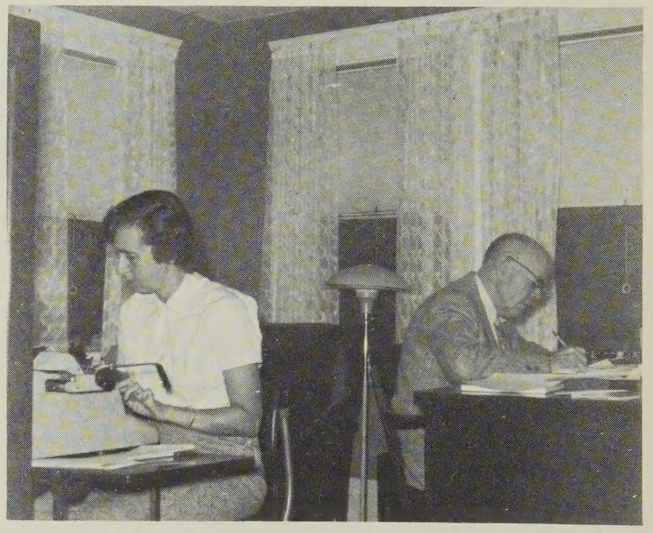


The Milwaukee Office

Because of our concern to help people understand the issues involved in the controversy concerning the "United Church of Christ," many people may not be fully aware of the positive program of cooperative activity which has been developed by our National Association. It is our purpose in this statement to describe this program so that those who read THE CONGREGATIONALIST may be aware of this fundamental aspect of our Association.

The Work of the Commissions

As our desire to work out cooperative activities has developed, we have channelled this concern through a number of commissions. Each of the commissions is charged with the responsibility for exploring the needs and the possibilities in the area of its concern. Each commission then makes its recommendations to the delegates assembled at an Annual Meeting. Those recommendations which are accepted by the delegates are then implemented by the proper commission, or by a special committee set up for this purpose.



The Eastern Field Office

In the accompanying report we have listed some of the activities of each of the commissions. Since most of these commissions were organized in the early part of 1958, it is quite amazing to see what has been accomplished in approximately two and a half years. One of the most exciting things about our National Association is that we are taking a new look at the various areas of cooperative activity, and we have come up with creative and constructive ideas.

Freedom in Fellowship

It should be emphasized that while each member Church is entitled to vote in meetings of the National Association, the participation of each Church in the various activities of the National Association is completely voluntary. As a matter of fact, we are seeking to develop ways by which minority groupings of Churches may express their concerns within the fellowship of the National Association. We want to emphasize the principle of freedom in fellowship.

As one reviews the various accomplishments of the National Association in fulfilling its purpose, it becomes clear that there now is and there will continue to be a creative and meaningful fellowship of Congregational Churches no matter what the future may bring. Any Church which wishes to maintain its Congregational heritage can find fellowship with like-minded Churches. As more and more Churches during these coming months decide to continue as Congregational Churches we would be glad to welcome them into membership in the free fellowship of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches of the United States.

OUR COMMISSIONS, THEIR

COMMISSION ON WOMEN'S WORK

Every minister and Church member knows that without the work of the women's organizations, few Churches could prosper. Recognizing this fact, a Commission on Women's Work was established early in the life of the National Association. Its first Chairman was Mrs. Paul R. Quaintance of Los Angeles, and under her leadership an excellent start was made. Mrs. Robert E. Collins of Grand Rapids, the present Chairman, is carrying on the work with remarkable success.

Mrs. Collins

The monthly Women's Work page in THE CONGREGATIONALIST keeps readers informed about this work. Extensive correspondence with women all over the country aids in keeping the Commission in touch with the best ways and means of doing the work of women's organizations. The booklet "Stimulating Suggestions" now in its second edition has proved most helpful. The use of "time, treasure, and talents" is encouraged. There is no attempt to "hand down" programs or projects, but rather to tell what has proved helpful in one place, in order that the women in other places may make use of the experience of others, adapting it to their own needs and situations.

The program for the Women's Work seminar at the Annual Meeting of the National Association is outlined on another page of this issue. The eagerness and enthusiasm of the Commission on Women's Work may indeed set an example for all delegates to the meeting at Maywood.

THE YOUTH COMMISSION

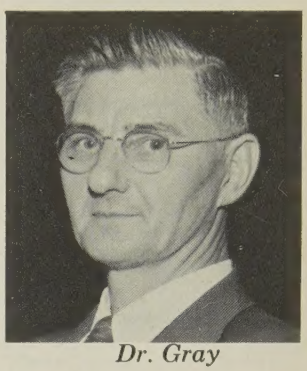
Under the leadership of Rev. Paul G. Pitman of Burlington, Iowa, the Youth Commission held its first meeting last March. The areas of work deemed advisable for a well-rounded youth program include Pilgrim Fellowship (Senior and Junior High), college student and post-high non-college groups, work camps and summer camping, youth caravans and international projects, and the Christian Life Service League. A basic structure of plans in each of these areas was laid at the March meeting.

Mr. Pitman

Summer work camps at Piedmont College and two international projects have been held this summer, and Pilgrim Fellowship work in several parts of the country has been well organized. The Chairman of this Commission says, "With our zeal and the Churches' backing your National Association Youth Commission looks forward to a great year."

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION

Under the able leadership of Dr. Henry David Gray of Hartford, Connecticut, this Commission has charge of publishing not only THE CONGREGATIONALIST but many booklets and brochures essential to the work of free Churches. Among those which have been produced of late are "The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches" and "The Freedom of the Preacher" (Butman), "The Unending Fight for the Freedom of Our Churches" (Bohman), "With One Sound of the Heart" (Conn), and "What It Means To Be a Member of a Congregational Christian Church" (Gray).



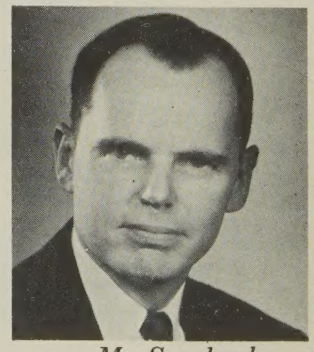
Dr. Gray

This Commission also handles the publishing of folders and pamphlets concerned with the National Association's missionary activities, occasional calendar inserts for the use of Churches on special Sundays, and folding pocket calendars with important Congregational dates. Close cooperation is maintained with all the Commissions of the National Association in order that the publications may have the greatest usefulness in carrying out the purposes for which we stand.

Depositories for the Commission's products are maintained at South Congregational Church, Main and Buckingham Streets, Hartford 3, Connecticut, Community Congregational Church, 515 North Placentia Avenue, Anaheim, California, the National Association Eastern Field Office, 61 East Street, Melrose 76, Massachusetts, and the central office at 176 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

Among the most active and important Commissions of the National Association is the one devoted to Christian Education. Rev. Robert H. Scanland of Pomona, California, is well qualified to lead this branch of our work. Believing that adequate attention is not paid to the principles of free Churches in most of the courses prepared by the well-established denominational publishing houses, this Commission has had prepared an evaluation chart on curricula for Junior High School departments. A similar chart on nursery curriculum material is now being prepared.



Mr. Scanland

The Commission is also studying the problem of textbooks on Congregational history and heritage, usable for young adults and Church School teachers, and other books which will be useful for educational work. This Commission and the Publications Commission are working in close cooperation on these proposed books.

AIRMEN AND THEIR WORK

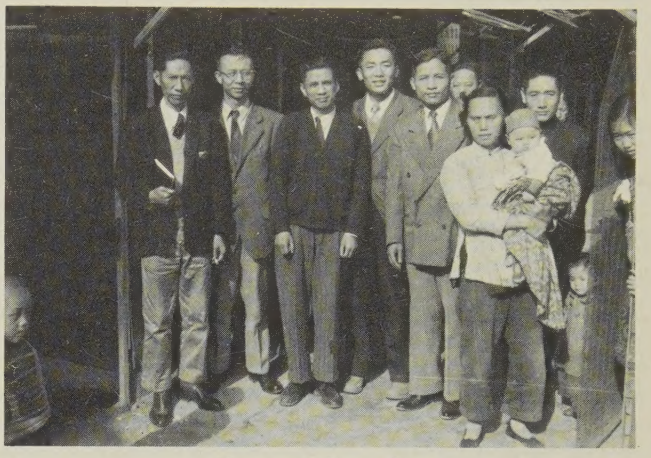
MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION

One of the first activities undertaken by the National Association was that of providing a Commission on Missions and Church Extension. Working hand-in-glove with the Missionary Society of the Congregational Christian Churches, help is being given in several parts of the world. Dr. John D. Rose of Lathrup Village, Michigan, Chairman of the Commission, reports that new Churches are being sponsored in Granada Hills and Anaheim, California, Toledo, Ohio, North Royalton, Ohio, and a new one now being gathered in West Bloomfield Township, Michigan.

The Hong Kong-Formosa evangelistic and educational work being carried on by Chinese refugees who had originally been trained by American Board missionaries on the mainland is being given financial help. Rev. and Mrs. Jokisaari are serving among the 10,000 Congregationalists in South India who desire to remain free, and an anonymous layman is giving $100,000.00 over a period of five years for resettlement work in the Near East.

Alaska, our 49th state, is being given attention, especially in the work among the Indians on the island of Metlakatla, and a major educational project in Georgia, Piedmont College is receiving increased attention.

This Commission's work is so important that it calls for generous, sustained giving from our Churches and their people. One unusual fact is that every dollar given through the Missionary Society and the Commission on Missions goes direct to the cause for which it is intended. Every cent of administrative and promotional expense is borne from the regular budget of the National Association.



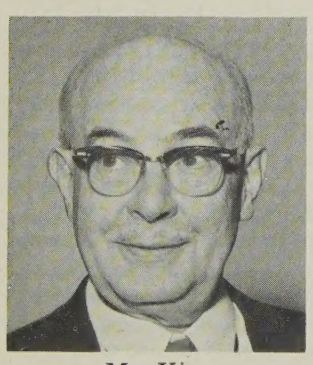
Formosa Preachers

Church Building Loan Fund

Because of our realization that it will be advisable to start many new Congregational Churches, and because some existing Congregational Churches will be involved in building programs, we have organized the Congregational Christian Building Loan Fund, Inc. It will be the purpose of this fund to provide supplementary loans to Churches when their financing cannot be completely underwritten from local sources. These loans will be made to National Association Churches and to new Churches sponsored by the National Association. Contributions for this purpose have already come from many Churches and individuals, but the need is great.

THE COMMISSION ON THE MINISTRY

This Commission has a vital responsibility for ensuring the future of our free fellowship. Recognizing that a Congregational Christian Church is essentially a layman's Church, nevertheless the importance of the pastor has been recognized from the beginning.



Mr. Kime

The Commission on the Ministry, Dr. Arthur A. Rouner of Brooklyn, New York, Chairman, is charged with the great task of helping our Churches to find ministers who are well prepared for their task and who hold an intelligent conviction that the way of freedom is an essential way.

Looking to this end, negotiations are under way for an arrangement with the projected Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana, whereby Congregational students may have the advantages of high scholarship standards and training and experience in small groups dedicated to prayer and witness.

The work of bringing Churches seeking pastors together with ministers seeking pulpits has up to now been shared between Dr. Harry W. Johnson of Boise, Idaho, and the Eastern Field Representative in Melrose, Massachusetts. As announced in the July CONGREGATIONALIST, Rev. F. Willard Kime will assume the duties of Associate Secretary in the Milwaukee office on September 1, and will have the Department of Pastoral Relations as an important part of his duties.

The National Association has been exceedingly fortunate in having the experience, wisdom, and devotion of Dr. Johnson in this work.

One of the aims of the Commission on the Ministry is to obtain from each seminary a list of Congregational students and seek permission to hold conference hours for any who might be interested in National Association Churches.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP

Miss Marilyn Heaney, Secretary, 1874 Lake Drive S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan

When the national officers met in Detroit on the 17th and 18th of June, many exciting topics were discussed which should arouse interest in local groups.

Regional representatives are working hard this summer to start rallies for September so that officers may be elected and the regions can begin to function actively. If this is not possible, the adult co-ordinator will appoint temporary officers until such a meeting can be held. Churches interested in taking a pioneer part in organizing such meetings could indicate this by offering their support to their regional representative.

A workshop for youth group presidents was discussed by the officers. Held on a regional basis during the summer, these meetings would help the officers to gain experience in leadership and idea creation. By next summer it is hoped these plans may be put into effect.

The idea of having "minute men" in each P.F. was brought out by one of the members. These people would report on material in THE CONGREGATIONALIST to keep the local groups aware of happenings on a national level.

Foreign Project Plans

The officers at the meeting hope that this year it will be possible to collect enough money to start a "grass roots" Church in Formosa. Linda Clark, our Northeast representative, will have more information on this project as time goes on.

Ann Morgan of Glendale suggested that a club could be formed similar to an adult organization in her Church. Teenagers belonging to the club would contribute $5.00 twice a year to be used for the "National Association Pilgrim Fellowship's New Church Fund." Ten per cent of the money would go for general Pilgrim Fellowship funds, while the remaining 90% would be spent on projects in which a youth group would help a new Church organize its Pilgrim Fellowship. These Congregational Youth Colonists, as the officers named them, would be doing the service under our home missions project.

Four areas were suggested for possible foreign trips next year: Great Britain, Greece, India, and Jamaica. The first two had been planned for this year, but they were not carried through. Scholarships for these projects were also discussed, but this and other talk on the subject was tabled until the autumn meeting.

Next Year's Meeting

In June of 1961 the National Pilgrim Fellowship is planning on having a general meeting to elect officers of the organization.

Churches will be able to send delegates to this gathering. The officers decided that the term of office should be two years in order that the young people will have time enough to become accustomed to their position. The president and treasurer will retire from office one year and the secretary and vice-president the next to enable the organization to function smoothly.

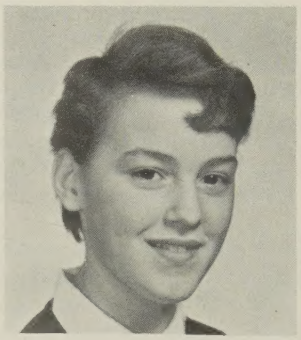
"The Echo of Faith"

One last very interesting subject to report. This year a national youth magazine will be published! For the first year the Northeast Pilgrim Fellowship will sponsor the undertaking with their vice-president acting as editor. "The Echo of Faith" was the name chosen by the Northeast group for the magazine and approved by the national officers. The publication will be sent to everyone who wants it for a subscription of 25¢. It will arrive in the mail during September, January, and May.

A FELLOWSHIP GROWS

Miss Valerie McCluskey, North Royalton, Ohio

Pilgrims land in North Royalton, Ohio, 1958! Strange as this may seem, it actually happened. Faith Community Church was started in a three car garage. From the outside one would not know it was a church, but upon entering, a handmade altar, pulpit, and paintings by members of the church can be found.



Miss McCluskey

This story will tell about one group of the Pilgrims — the Youth Fellowship.

Not only were the group members Pilgrims with the start of the Church, but through joining the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches they acquired the name, Pilgrim Fellowship.

The young people were ready to try anything to make the group grow and prosper. Meetings were held in the garage-chapel, and members offered their homes for other activities and projects.

One program was called a "Sea to Sea Festival." This was held in the minister's home. It included costumes, displays, foods, songs, and slides of various countries. A worship service on The Creation ended the evening.

Another program took place in the chapel at Christmas time. It was a pageant, written and produced by the youth.

The third experience was a retreat at the home of one of the members. This consisted of a worship service around a campfire and a morning watch, as well as the regular activities of a camp.

A Workday for Christ permitted the youth to do things for people in His name and the donations went to a worthy cause.

To finance a summer camp and an educational trip to New York, the group sold ball-point pens. The slogan — "Buy Pen . . . We'll Travel," helped to make the sales successful.

The group grew in number from seven to twenty-two in a short time. New ideas and plans were plentiful but the lack of proper facilities remained a problem. This problem was minimized when again the people offered their homes.

Work camps and Youth Sunday, a Sunday set aside on which the young people conduct the regular Church service, enabled the fellowship to participate and grow in Christian education. Youth choirs for special occasions added to the group's activities.

Since the birth of the Church, the Youth Fellowship of Faith Community has come a long way in becoming the kind of fellowship it had wanted to be.

DOWN WITH THE BARRIERS — UP WITH THE BANNERS

Henry David Gray, Ph.D., Hartford, Connecticut

Mark 1:17 "And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me'."

Mark 3:2, 5 "And they watched him to see whether he would heal (a sick man) on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him . . . and (Jesus) looked at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart."

When the title of this article was first written, the two phrases were of equal size. When the printer's proof arrived, "Down With The Barriers" appeared in type twice the size of "Up With The Banners!" I started to change it — then, suddenly, it came to me that the printer's title illustrates a common and most destructive attitude; the attitude which emphasizes "what's wrong" instead of "what's right," the attitude which *pulls down* instead of *lifting up,* the attitude which *criticizes* instead of *commending.* I feel sorry for the poor soul who has lost the lilt and lift of the gospel — the poor creature whose sad and pathetic theme is "down with" without any glad cry "up with!"

That's a sermon in itself, but it is just the starting point toward an understanding of the two texts from Mark's Gospel.

The first text is simple and direct. "Jesus said to them, 'Follow me'."

The second text shows how Jesus looked upon those who were trying to make rules for people who wanted to follow the way of God . . . in this example, rules about keeping the Jewish Sabbath.

The point is just this — "Jesus said to them, 'Follow me.'" I want to suggest that we ought to abandon all demands for Church membership and fellowship which are not made by Jesus Himself, and which are contrary to His Spirit. I want to suggest that the large and generous spirit of mid-seventeenth century Congregationalists in London is an example we ought to be following, a principle we need to proclaim, an attitude we need to acquire, and is *the necessary climate for real Christian unity* within a particular Church or amongst the great sisterhood of all Christ's Churches everywhere. So — I say, DOWN WITH THE BARRIERS — UP WITH THE BANNERS.

Down With The Barriers of Clerical Rule
Up With The Banners of Christ's Rule

In Spain and in Latin America, the rule of the clergy ofttimes is similar to that exercised in the Middle Ages. Though the teaching of the Roman Church is not technically exclusive, the manner in which that teaching is applied by the clergy of Spain has led even a bishop in the United States to protest.

The tendency in certain sectors of our own Congregational Christian Fellowship is toward more and more power in the hands of the clergy, particularly those clergy who sit at office desks. In Hartford not long ago, one such officer pontificated the idea that local Churches were not competent to be the Church or to meet the needs of our hour in history. I say, DOWN WITH THE BARRIERS — UP WITH THE BANNERS.

DOWN with the whole idea that clerical rule from New York or Rome or anywhere else "knows best" what Christ wants you and me to be and to do. UP with the banners of Christ's voice in His Church! *The illumined mind of one saint in one particular Church is more likely to understand what the Master wants His followers to be and to do than is the decree made by highly paid clerics meeting in a committee room.*

"A man's a man for a' that." And when Jesus said "Follow me," He did not mean, follow whoever sets himself or his organization up as an authority IN PLACE OF ME. He meant, "Follow me."

Down With Organizational Barriers
Up With Fellowship Banners

The age-old cry for unity of organization is always with us. Once upon a time, about the year 1000, in Western Europe, it was nearly achieved through the Latin-speaking branch of the Christian Church. The result was corruption — sale of bishops' authority and income, persecution of saints like John of the Cross and Peter Waldo, and such sad bickering and backstage politics as would make our American political conventions look like children's games.

Now there are men who tell us that it is the "will of God" or "the leading of the Holy Spirit" that we should again create one monstrous church organization. They have set up a barrier contrary to Christ's spirit. They neglect the banner He flung wide across the sky . . . FOLLOW ME . . . not, follow an organization. Come into a voluntary fellowship! UP with the banner of fellowship — UP with the banner of insight into the meaning of God's way through fellowship of service in Christ's name in and through a concerned fellowship. UP with the banner of joy over each other's glad tidings and sympathy for each other's weaknesses. UP with the banner of concern to draw out the best in each other because we are fellow disciples (fellow followers) — *not* because we belong to a Church organization, *but* because we have opened our hearts to God and have found ourselves strangely and wondrously moved within the brotherhood of His Church.

Aye — that's the pith and point of these two texts from Mark. DOWN WITH THE BARRIERS — UP WITH THE BANNERS.

Down with the barrier of clerical rule from afar — up with the banners of Christ's rule in His Church.

Down with the organizational barriers of a vast Church organization — up with the fellowship banners of a devout Christian brotherhood. *Let us abandon demands not made by the Master Himself and contrary to His Spirit.* Let all who will join in a glad, free-thinking, conscience-commended fellowship with Christ and with Him alone as Lord.

DOWN WITH THE BARRIERS — UP WITH THE BANNERS.

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP NOTES

Continued from page 8, col. 2

Pennsylvania Camp Successful

Seventy one young people and counsellors attended the Pilgrim Fellowship Conference at Camp Soles, and all were happy and enthusiastic. Rev. William Randall of Sharon was Director, assisted by Rev. Howard Landes of New Castle and Rev. Sherwood Keiser of Duquesne. Young people came not only from western Pennsylvania but also from Brookfield Slope and North Royalton in Ohio.

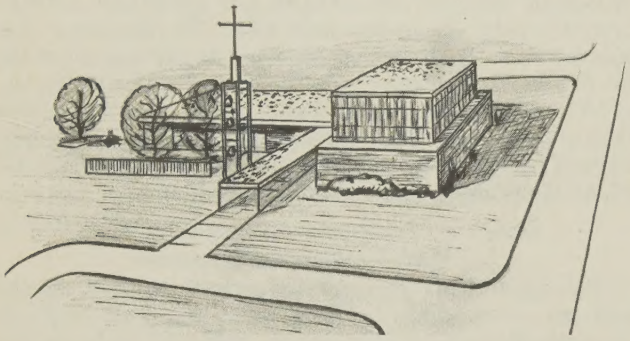
Autumn Leaf Rally

The annual Autumn Leaf Rally of the Northeast Pilgrim Fellowship will be held at the Federated Church in Skowhegan, Maine, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 7, 8, and 9. The host pastor is Rev. Robert Simpson.

WHAT FAITH HAS DONE

Mr. Robert Zackel, President, Faith Community Church, North Royalton, Ohio

The hurried and frenzied efforts of a mere handful of people to convert a three car garage into a chapel and the basement of a home into a Church School within a period of six days were well rewarded on Sunday, May 1, 1960 by a Second Anniversary Service. Guest speaker for the occasion was Reverend Neil H. Swanson, Jr. The date May 1, 1960 also marks the beginning of a three year financial pledge on the part of each and every member of Faith Community Church. Members of the canvassing committee reported they had never dreamed of such dedication and sacrifice within the membership of a Church.



Future House of Worship, Faith Community Church, North Royalton, Ohio.

Eventual goal of the canvassing drive is the erection of a $75,000 Sanctuary and Sunday School. Lesko Associates of Cleveland, Ohio, were the architects engaged by the Building Committee to draw preliminary plans for the Church. Even with local bank financing, plus the efforts of the members themselves, the drawings will not become a reality in the immediate future. In the interim, the congregation has decided to leave our "beloved chapel" and move to a nearby school. We are now stymied in seeking increased membership by a lack of facilities in our Sunday School and "Church." Enough parking space has also been a problem. Both of these conditions will be alleviated by using the school.

Worshipping in a Chapel

Worshipping in our present "Chapel" has been an experience none of us will soon forget. But picture a three-car garage, the front quarter occupied by chancel furniture, the rest seating and standing 105 worshippers! This is our record so far. So the decision to move to a school has been considered a sound one.

Since our inception two years ago, our tangible assets have mounted considerably, hand-made altar furniture, chairs, heating plant, parking facilities, an organ donated by Claude Foster; just to mention a few. The National Association and many member Churches have helped enormously all along the way. Faith's new purchase and full payment of 4½ acres of land for our church site, is evidence of that.

The Christian concern shown by other Churches, and individuals in our cause here at Faith, is one of the finest things we have experienced. Our greatest pleasure, in the near future, will be to help other small Churches, as we have been helped, in expanding God's ministry. With God's help it will be done.

Congregational Bookshelf

Rev. Royal G. Davis, Los Angeles, California

Congregationalist John Marsh, Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford, and two equally capable editors are providing a series of handbooks to show "the essential Gospel contained in the various books of the Bible." When completed the Torch Bible Commentaries will contain 32 volumes.

A careful reading of four of the New Testament commentaries enables one to make a tentative evaluation of the entire project. The change in tone and style of Biblical studies these past few years is marked. The temper has become cautious, apologetic, almost defensive. What has been called constructive rather than critical scholarship is emphasized. One could speak of Bible study guided if not determined by theological concerns.

Alan Richardson, for example, deliberately minimizes the gnostic elements in the Fourth Gospel which the greater Bultmann considers fundamental. Canon Browning of Blackburn Cathedral hunts for deep symbolic or typological meanings behind the language of St. Luke. He calls the Infancy stories "midrash" yet defends the historicity of the virgin birth. Professor Allan follows Goodspeed in his treatment of Ephesians but omits the latter's most provocative theories.

Without denying earlier results of historical criticism, these authors try desperately to get around them and back to more traditional positions. They are post-liberals in time and pre-liberal in spirit. Gone are the days of Harnack, Loisy and Bacon, but one wonders whether the latest fads are either more honest or more relevant in the long run.

Because the Bible is the minister's basic tool and the Christian's most precious possession, commentaries are of crucial import. No serious student would buy a complete commentary series because the individual books are of uneven quality, whether the series be International Critical or Interpreters, Tyndale or Torch. Yet anyone committed to the Christian Way can find new insight or additional light from the series John Marsh is editing.

THE TORCH BIBLE COMMENTARIES, SCM PRESS, *Distributed by* MACMILLAN COMPANY, NEW YORK.

AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT

Because a number of the pro-Congregational people have raised questions concerning an organization called the Pilgrim Missionary Society, I wish to make the following statement:

We feel that any group of individuals or Churches may organize any activity to fulfill its desires. We also feel that every organization should make clear to those whom it contacts exactly what it represents. The Pilgrim Missionary Society has no relationship with the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. The only Missionary Society with which our National Association has any relationship is the Missionary Society of the Congregational Christian Churches, Room 2308, 100 North La Salle Street, Chicago 2, Illinois. I hope that this statement will help to clear up the confusion which has resulted in the minds of some people.

Signed: NEIL H. SWANSON, JR.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
OF THE N. A. C. C. C.

OUR DEVOTIONAL COLUMN

Rev. Carl M. Gates, Claremont, California

THEME FOR THE MONTH: HOW GOD BECOMES REAL TO US.

Suggested Readings: Hosea 11:1-9, Psalm 46; Philippians 4:4-13; I John 4:7-12.

It was Hosea's continuing love for his wife, in spite of her unfaithfulness, that enabled him to understand the forgiving love of God. Just so, great steps forward in religious insight are made possible, usually, by some new and larger experience. The joy that comes to parents as they take in their arms their first-born child makes God more real to them than He ever could be before. As the delights of parenthood are gradually matched by increasing problems and heartaches there comes a new understanding of what the Fatherhood of God means.

We learn the love of God by personal experience. In Tolstoy's story, "Where Love Is, There God Is" the shoemaker has no idea at first that he is ministering to the Christ when he helps the weary old soldier, and the hungry young mother with her crying baby, and the irate apple woman, but because he has loved in Jesus' way he discovers that he has come close to God himself.

Work, too, if done in the spirit of love toward God and one's fellowmen, is an open door into fellowship with the God who is all the time at work fashioning a new and finer world. An invalid woman used to sit at the window of her little home and wave a cheery greeting to the miners who trudged by on their way home from the mine.

It was not much for her to do, but it brought a lift to their spirits and so helped to make God real to her. Standing for Christian ideals in the midst of everyday temptations; helping to make the atmosphere of a home beautiful; praying for those who are fighting hard battles or bearing heavy burdens — any such work, all unconsciously, develops a sense of being partners with God.

Even the troubles that seem to hide God's face from us may turn out to be some of our most enriching and enlightening experiences. A minister was hurrying to a home in his parish where a little child was dying. Suddenly he was accosted by a man who said he was looking for God. Where could he find Him? The response was an invitation to accompany the minister on his call. Not a word was said in the house about finding God, but when the two men had reached the street once more, the man looked at the minister and said: "You needn't say a word to me now about finding God; I found Him up there in that little room." Anyone who has learned by experience that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble," needs no argument to prove the reality of God.

Truth becomes clear to us as we live our way into an understanding of it. God becomes increasingly real as broadening experience enables us to share more and more in His life, entering into His joys and sorrows, working with Him for the fulfillment of His divine purpose.

PRAYER: "O God, Author of the world's joy, Bearer of the world's pain; make us glad that we are men and that we have inherited the world's burdens; deliver us from the luxury of cheap melancholy; and, at the heart of all our trouble and sorrow, let unconquerable gladness dwell; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen."

Continued from column 1

(The Devotional Column each month through next July will be written by Dr. Gates. Ed.)

FROM THE LETTER BOX

Editor, THE CONGREGATIONALIST

This is a comment on the brief article about the history of the American Board, which appears in your magazine for May, 1960, by Rev. Royal G. Davis.

Regardless of one's point of view about the ecumenical movement, or the United Church of Christ, it is impossible to accept the statement in that article that what inspired and prodded the founders of the American Board was "the concern of many Congregational ministers for a global version of Congregationalism."

This is simply untrue to all the records which we have. It is evident that from the very beginning the Congregationalists who founded the American Board were not at all interested in the global spread of Congregationalism, but that they conceived themselves to have a common mission with the Presbyterians and others of similar theological background.

Our judgment as to whether they were correct in this may differ. But regardless of what we think, this is what they thought. Concern for a global version of Congregationalism is a recent development of the mid-20th century, without any significant roots in our American Board, as a primary concern.

DAVID M. STOWE

Boston, Massachusetts.

Mr. Davis' Reply

Not long ago an ABCFM missionary told me that Park Street Church, Boston was not Congregational because it did not contribute to the American Board. Evidently where giving is concerned the American Board wants to be considered thoroughly Congregational.

In typical fashion Mr. Stowe insists on the completely interdenominational origins of the Board. The facts are that the first prospective missionaries came from Congregational Andover Seminary, were heard by the Congregational General Association, ordained in Tabernacle Congregational Church, Salem and commissioned by Congregational Board members whose first three meetings were in Congregational Farmington, Worcester and Hartford. The first large bequest to the American Board came from Congregationalist Mary Norris.

The Dutch Reformed Church and the Presbyterian General Assembly cooperated with us until they could get their own missions organized. "Attracted by the enthusiasm for the work," a 19th century historian explains. Those New School Presbyterians who cooperated were later accused of 16 doctrinal errors and 10 in polity, probably because they were considered too Congregational.

We agree on the basic point. In most cases the American Board did not and does not organize Congregational Churches.

ROYAL G. DAVIS

Los Angeles, California

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NEWS NOTES

Dr. Hansen Retires. Rev. Niel E. Hansen, D.D., General Director of the Chicago City Missionary Society of the Congregtaional Churches retired on September 1 after nearly 25 years' work with the Society. Ordained in 1920, Dr. Hansen served Churches in Whitewater, Wisconsin, and Galesburg, Illinois, before going into the City Missionary Society Work. He and Mrs. Hansen will live in their home town, Dayton, Ohio.

Laymen's Retreat in Pennsylvania. Laymen of Congregational Churches in Pennsylvania gathered for a weekend of fellowship, inspiration, and study at Camp T. Frank Soles, Trent, Pennsylvania, June 10-12. The Chairman of the Laymen's Fellowship is Mr. Elmer Meyers of McKeesport.

The "Town Crier" Rings His Bell. Sponsored by the Town and Country Department of the National Association, *The Town Crier* has made its second appearance. This newsletter endeavors to keep the smaller Churches in touch with one another and to be helpful to them in their work. The provisional Editor of the newsletter, serving until the Maywood meeting, is Rev. Arthur W. Tiffen, Tarentum, Pennsylvania.

Parsonage Purchased at South Amherst, Ohio. The National Association member-Church at South Amherst, Ohio, has voted to purchase a house adjoining the church building, to be used as a parsonage. The women of the Church are holding monthly suppers during the summer to help finance the project.

Cornerstone Laying in Lynn. The First Church of Christ in Lynn, Massachusetts (gathered June 8, 1632) laid the cornerstone for its new building on June 26. Among the articles placed within was a copy of the current CONGREGATIONALIST.

New Slides Available. The Missionary Society has received 47 kodachrome slides from Taipei, Formosa, illustrating local conditions and work among refugees and aborigines. These with lecture text may be borrowed without charge (except parcel post) from Room 2308, 100 North La Salle Street, Chicago 2, Illinois.

New Member Church. The Community Church of Saranac, Michigan, has voted to become a member of the National Association.

Honorary Degree For Mr. Masselink. Rev. Bruce H. Masselink, pastor of Mayflower Congregational Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity at Piedmont College Commencement last June. The citation appears in this issue of THE CONGREGATIONALIST.

New Hampshire Meetings. Eight members of the New Hampshire League to Preserve Congregationalism met on July 30 at Concord, with Rev. and Mrs. Malcolm K. Burton. Mr. Burton discussed the status of the suit in the Federal court concerning the merger issue. An open meeting of the League is scheduled for August 16 at Alton, to complete plans for activity in the Granite State for the coming Autumn. Mr. Carl E. Clifford of Brookline has been chosen as publicity director for the League.

AN INVALID ASSUMPTION

Rev. Alvin C. Bacon,
Boynton Beach, Florida

The merger program appears to be based upon an assumption which is of doubtful validity, the assumption that ecumenicity involves the elimination of all sectarian differences and the bringing of all Christendom into one great monolithic church. It is doubtful if such a church will ever come into being; still more doubtful if it were desirable were it possible. Our humanity is infinitely various, springing from profound differences in race, geography, nation, language, mores, customs and habits of thought and action. These differences are not to be deplored; they are gratefully to be acknowledged and accepted. Many people in many areas of the world make their own peculiar contributions to the truth and welfare of the whole. Our Christianity is the richer because of the very variety of its people and their differences.

Diversity, Not Stereotypes

My old school at Andover recently set forth its aim and purpose as follows: "We are seeking to give every boy . . . every possible opportunity to develop to the fullest his own particular potential, to be an individual rather than a stereotype. There is plenty of talk concerning the great pressures on our young people to conform, pressures toward mediocrity in standards of performance and in taste toward self-seeking." That is a worthy program for secular education today, a worthy program for religious training and culture also. The merger is just another of many efforts today to regiment the people, enforce conformity upon them, and so to rob the public of the peculiar ability and genius that are to be found in many individuals, out of which should come the competent leadership of today and tomorrow.

Our Contribution

The independent churches, Congregational and others, have made great contributions to religious liberty and freedom of conscience. This is an emphasis which is needed today as much as it ever has been. Freedom is on the defensive everywhere in all areas of our common life, political, social, economic and religious. We shall serve our time best by keeping our Congregational witness to freedom vigorous and unfettered. The one unforgiveable folly would be to commit our Churches to ecclesiastical servitude.

In Memoriam

Edna R. Good, wife of Rev. Charles M. Good of Hutchinson, Kansas, died last May, after a married life of 46 years. She and Mr. Good had served Churches in Missouri for seven years, Nebraska five years and Kansas twenty-six years. Funeral services were held in Hutchinson, Kansas, on June 2.

Mrs. Roscoe M. Burgess, a loyal Congregationalist, died on July 18 in Silvis, Illinois.